



# Travis Unified School District

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**Dr. Jacki L. Cottingim, Superintendent**

December 9, 2004

Honorable Peter Foor  
Presiding Judge  
Solano County Grand Jury  
Hall of Justice  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Re: Response to the 2003/2004 Solano County Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Foor:

Attached per the Solano County Grand Jury's request of November 19, 2004, are the Travis Unified School District responses to the Vanden High School and the Vanden Ball Field Reports. Per my conversation with Ms. Harrison, these responses are intended to meet the response requirement for the Travis Unified School District, Travis Unified School Board, and Vanden High School.

We apologize that these responses were delayed. We have not yet found our copy of the original report. We suspect that it was either lost in the mail or in our internal distribution.

If the Grand Jury has any questions or needs additional information, please feel free to contact me at 437-8220 or by mail and I will provide answers or assistance as necessary. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

William W. Taylor  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business and Operations

Atch: Vanden High School Response  
Vanden Ball Field Response

**Vanden High School  
2003-2004 Grand Jury Report  
Travis USD Response**

**IV. Findings and Recommendations**

*Each finding is referenced to the background paragraph number.*

**Finding #1** - The school has an effective operating program which is driven by the two information "hubs," the library and counseling department. (3)

**Recommendation #1** - Continue and strengthen this highly effective system.

**Response** – Thank you. Vanden High School has every intention of following the recommendation.

**Finding #2** - The school logistically is laid out so as to maximize teacher collaboration and resource availability. (8)

**Recommendation #2** - Continue to keep similar classes in close proximity for teacher collaboration and resource availability.

**Response** – We plan to keep similar classes in close proximity for teacher collaboration. This is a key concept in our modernization and growth plan.

**Finding #3** - There are dangerous thorn bushes that pose a safety hazard because they overhang the walkways. (9)

**Recommendation #3** - Remove the thorn bushes.

**Response** – We have cut the bushes back so that they no longer pose a safety hazard. Staff will monitor the bushes to ensure that they do not become a problem again.

**Finding #4** - The juice machine was not working properly but the soda machine was working. (9)(10)

**Recommendation #4** - Repair the juice machine.

**Response** – We are no longer with the vendor of the juice machine. We have a new vendor that fixes the machines within a few hours.

**Finding #5** - The campus was littered with gum, especially the outside eating area. (9)

**Recommendation #5** - Clean gum residue from campus walkways and eating areas.

**Response** – Custodians have been provided new scrapers and are making the removal of gum residue a priority.

**Finding #6** - A glass exit door in the cafeteria was painted with opaque green paint posing a potential safety hazard. (9)

**Recommendation #6** – Correct the safety hazard.

**Response** – The glass window in the door has been replaced.

**Vanden Ball Field  
2003-2004 Grand Jury Report  
Travis USD Response**

**Finding #1** - Travis Unified School District has no record, by either paper documentation, or memory of the present or former superintendents or business managers, of payment or a pledge to relocate the baseball field. The complainant was unable to produce written verification of the funding regarding the relocation of the ball field. (1)

**Recommendation #1** - Complainant should obtain original written documentation from the seller.

**Response** – Travis Unified School District personnel researched Solano County and District records and could find no record documenting a payment or a pledge to relocate the ball field. The complainant has not provided any such documentation to date.

**Finding #2** - According to school board records, the complainant did not appear on the formal agenda to speak to the school board. He spoke during the time of comments from the floor. He did turn in hand-written bills for repairs, which the school board could not accept because they were not original invoices. (1)(2)

**Recommendation #2** - The complainant should always seek formal placement on the school board agenda if he wishes to officially address the school board. The complainant should produce original invoices and logs for home repairs of damages.

**Response** – Travis Unified School District has provided claim documentation forms to complainants in the past. The District stands ready to work with the complainant on this matter.

**Finding #3** - The Grand Jury found that both the complainant and the Travis Unified School District administration were open to resolving the conflict in a way that would not involve moving the field. (5)

**Recommendation #3** - As a good faith gesture, the district and complainant should continue to work together to minimize the incidences of baseballs accidentally entering private property. One possible solution is to construct an extension of “mesh” atop the existing back stop.

**Response** – We will continue to work with the complainant and seek out possible solutions.

**Finding #4** - The field is occasionally used without permission from the school. (7)

**Recommendation #4** - Signage on the field should clearly state that the field is for school use only. The school should “lock down” the area between home plate and the

pitcher's mound to discourage unauthorized use of the field. The field should be periodically patrolled during non-school hours.

**Response** – We have added signs emphasizing that the area can only be used by permit. In addition, we have not given out permission for any outside group to use the field. Finally, we have periodically patrolled the area and removed/counseled groups who were using the field without authorization.